

From: s.hellman@isti.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:22pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the Proposed Final Judgment in United States v. Microsoft case.

I am president of Instrumental Software Technologies, Inc. We are a software consulting firm who specializes in writing custom software for the geophysical research community (Many US Universities and the US Geological Survey are our clients.) We write software that runs under Microsoft OS's (NT, 2000, me, etc) as well as Linux and Solaris. Three quarters of our company works develops software primarily under the Linux operating system.

The Proposed Final Judgment in United States v. Microsoft prohibits certain behaviors by Microsoft towards OEMs, but curiously allows the following exclusionary practices:

Section III.A.2. allows Microsoft to retaliate against any OEM that ships Personal Computers containing a competing Operating System but no Microsoft operating system.

The problem I have with this is as a commercial software development firm, we need to buy our computers from reputable sources. While we prefer to buy from companies like Dell, the effects of the above section may effectively force us to buy an OS from Microsoft for every computer in our office, even though all but 4 of our computers have had their hard disks cleared upon arrival in our offices and have Linux installed on them instead. This section effectively forces us to spend our precious monetary resources on Microsoft products that we have no intension of using.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Sid Hellman
President
ISTI

--

Sidney Hellman - s.hellman@isti.com - <http://www.isti.com>
(518)602-0001 - office (518)602-0002 - fax

Instrumental Software Technologies, Inc.
Systems Integration and Software Development Specialists

CC: s.hellman@isti.com@inetgw